



Traffic Advisory Committee

TOWN OF BELMONT

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Information on Complaints Regarding Speeding

The Town of Belmont Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) often receives complaints from residents on a variety of speeding vehicle related items. The TAC evaluates each complaint and determines whether a problem exists and whether mitigation is possible. Below is information on frequently discussed items.

Residents seeking action by the TAC should clearly document complaints by identifying the location and nature of the problem. Contact information should be included (phone number, e-mail address, etc). Requests should be sent to the Director of Community Development or the Traffic Division of the Belmont Police Department.

Speed Bumps

The Town of Belmont does not install speed bumps. The TAC does not support the installation of speed bumps. Speed bumps are problematic for several reasons: they require money and labor to install and maintain, they can be an impediment to emergency vehicles, they can present a liability to the Town should an accident occur as a result of their installation, the stop and start action causes frustration to motorists and impacts to the environment, and it is conceivable that speed bumps would need to be installed on every residential street in Belmont in order to satisfy the demand and act in a consistent manner to all residents.

Raised Crosswalks / Raised Intersections

The TAC supports raised elements such as crosswalks and intersections in locations where high pedestrian activity warrants special consideration on roadways carrying moderately high traffic volumes, approximately 4000 to 6000 Average Daily Traffic count. Traffic volumes greater than approximately 6000 ADT can be adversely impacted by raised elements. (Funding is currently not available for raised crosswalks)

Crosswalks

Crosswalks are placed at locations where strict engineering guidelines are met. Crosswalks indicate a safe location for pedestrians to cross the road. Crosswalks are not used for traffic control, they are not placed for the convenience of pedestrians - without consideration of motorist behavior - and they are not placed in an effort to make traffic slow down or stop. Proper consideration of traffic speed and visibility is required before a crosswalk can be considered.

Crosswalk Signs

The TAC recognizes that the installation and maintenance of signs requires funding and the Town has limited resources. Crosswalk signs are generally placed in locations where reinforcement of the crosswalk location is required in order to properly warn motorists. Crosswalks that have good visibility and crosswalks at corners or signalized intersections generally do not have crosswalk signage. Crosswalk signs are not a substitute for enforcement. Signs are frequently ignored by a number of motorists.

Speed Study

The Belmont Police Department will perform a speed study on roads where residents are complaining about speeding vehicles. Most residential roadways have a speed limit of 30 miles per hour. Speed limits are set based on an engineering study of the existing speeds on the roadway. Speed limits cannot be arbitrarily reduced without proper engineering support. The TAC will evaluate data from a speed study to determine whether conditions are normal for the type of roadway in question or whether traffic enforcement is required.

Stop Signs

The TAC recognizes that the installation and maintenance of signs requires funding and the Town has limited resources. Stop signs are generally not recommended to be installed at locations where the requirement to stop is obvious. Motorists are expected to be familiar with Massachusetts right of way laws.

Federal guidelines clearly state Stop signs are not to be used for speed control.

Multi Stop Approaches

Multi stop approaches (mostly commonly presented as a four way stop approach) must meet federal guidelines. The TAC will determine if a proposed multi stop approach warrants consideration and then determine how to proceed with the required engineering study.

Federal guidelines clearly state Stop signs are not to be used for speed control.